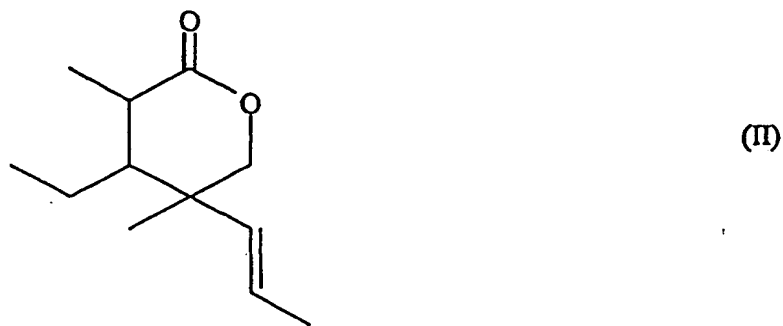


ABSTRACT

A valerolactone compound represented by the formula (I):



- 5 wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is independently a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or an ethyl group wherein when  $R^1$  is a hydrogen atom,  $R^2$  is not a hydrogen atom; and wherein when  $R^2$  is a hydrogen atom,  $R^1$  is not a hydrogen atom,  $R^3$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and  $R^4$  is a propyl group, a 1-propenyl group or a phenyl group; a valerolactone compound represented by the formula (II):



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a process for preparing the same; and a perfume composition comprising the above-mentioned valerolactone compound.